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The State of Maryland Joins the ENERGY STAR® Challenge

The State of Maryland, through the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), announces its partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency in joining the ENERGY STAR Challenge to “Build a Better World Ten Percent at a Time”.

The ENERGY STAR Challenge calls on businesses and institutions across the country to take the right steps to identify the many buildings where financially attractive improvements can reduce energy use by 10% or more, and to make the improvements now through proven methods such as low-cost building tune-ups, lighting upgrades, and replacement of old equipment. The Challenge promotes three important actions: 1) Determining building energy performance, 2) establishing an improvement goal (10% or more), and 3) making energy efficiency improvements.

“Governor Ehrlich has been a strong proponent of Maryland’s ENERGY STAR program. Joining the ENERGY STAR Challenge is a logical next step towards encouraging Maryland businesses to contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment while also saving on energy bills”, said Michael Richard, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration.

MEA is committed to improving building energy performance in state buildings, K-12 schools and commercial buildings. In support of the ENERGY STAR Challenge’s goal and continuing existing efforts, Maryland will:

- Facilitate the exchange of information and technical assistance to both privately and publicly held commercial buildings and institutions through MEA’s Rebuild America program,
- Promote the use of the national energy performance rating system as a mechanism to rate the energy performance of buildings and identify the best opportunities for improving energy efficiency, and
- Use performance contracting, state agency loan programs, community energy loan programs, and other grants to assist in financing improvements.

MEA has been an ENERGY STAR partner since 2001. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented MEA with its ENERGY STAR Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education award in March 15, 2005. To read more about the ENERGY STAR Challenge, visit www.energystar.gov/challenge. To learn more about Maryland’s ENERGY STAR program, please visit <http://www.energy.state.md.us/energystar/index.html>.